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Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03906 161127Z

67
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 /025 W
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R 161005Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9249
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS ANKARA 3906

USIAC

USIA FOR MEDIA REACTION STAFF

E.O.11652: N/A

1. EVENTS IN CAMBODIA RECEIVED ONLY MODERATE ATTENTION IN TURKISH MEDIA THURSDAY. A BIG LOCAL STORY PUSHED THEM OFF FRONT PAGES. IN FRIDAY EDITIONS ABOUT ONE MAJOR DAILY IN TWO CARRIED THE STORY ON PAGE ONE.

2. ONLY SENSATIONALIST HURRIYET, TURKEY'S LARGEST DAILY, BANNERED THE STORY FRIDAY: "AMERICA ATTACKS CAMBODIA TO GET ITS CAPTURED FREIGHTER--NEW FAR EASTERN WAR." HOWEVER STORIES IN HURRIYET, AND OTHER TURKISH DAILIES, WERE BASED EXCLUSIVELY ON WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS CARRIED IN A LARGELY STRAIGHTFORWARD MANNER.

3. IN AN UNSIGNED EDITORIAL, HURRIYET CRITICIZED THE AMERICAN ACTION. "...IF THE AMERICAN MERCHANT VESSEL HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY THE CAMBODIANS IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS. ON THE HIGH SEAS, THIS ACTION CERTAINLY WOULD BE CALLED 'PIRACY.' BUT EVEN AMERICAN SOURCES STATE THAT THE SHIP WAS CAPTURED ABOUT EIGHT MILES (SIC) OFF THE ISLAND OF POULO WAI. THE FALLEN GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA HAD ANNOUNCED
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ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS WERE 12 MILES. AND NOW THE NEW ONE

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CLAIMS THAT ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS ARE 60 MILES. IN ANY
CASE, THE AMERICAN VESSEL WAS CAPTURED WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL
WATERS OF CAMBODIA. THEREFORE, THE CLAIM THAT THE SHIP WAS
CAPTURED IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS IS NOT VALID. ON THE OTHER
HAND, THE CAPTURE OF THE SHIP BY THE CAMBODIANS DID NOT
NECESSARILY MEAN IT WOULD NOT BE RETURNED....
THE AMERICAN MILITARY ACTION, WHICH STARTED AN HOUR AFTER
THE RELEASE (SIC) OF THE CAPTURED VESSEL, CANNOT BE EXPLAINED
AS 'RESPECTING INTERNATIONAL LAW' AND IT CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED...."

4. IN THE ONLY OTHER COMMENT NOTED, LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET'S
COLUMNIST, ALI SIRMEN, SPECULATED THAT THE MAYAGUEZ INCIDENT
MIGHT ONLY BE A PRETEXT FOR RENEWED U.S. ARMED INTERVENTION
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA."....THE FIRST CONCLUSION TO BE DERIVED
FROM THE CAMBODIAN INCIDENT IS THAT THE UNITED STATES
HAS NOT GIVEN UP THE IDEA OF BEING A WORLD GENDARMERY
FORCE AND DOES NOT WANT TO WITHDRAW INTO ISOLATION. HUGE
AMERICAN CAPITAL, ITS CARTELS AND TRUSTS, AND ITS MULTI-
NATIONAL CORPORATIONS COULD NOT TOLERATE SUCH A WITH-
DRAWAL." SIRMEN, WHO HAS BEEN CONSITENTLY HOSTILE TO THE
PRESENCE OF U.S. BASES IN TURKEY, NOTED THAT THE U.S.
HAD USED U.S. BASES IN THAILAND FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES AND
RECALLED THAT BASES IN TURKEY HAD ALSO BEEN THUS USED. HE
CONCLUDED: "ONE WAY OF AVOIDING BEING USED AS A TOOL FOR THE
DIRTY TRICKS OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM IS TO CLOSE DOWN ALL
THE AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY."
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